

June 8, 1858.

Dr. Gray, F.R.S., V.P., in the Chair.

The following papers were read:—

1. ON NEW SPECIES OF BIRDS FROM WESTERN AFRICA, IN THE COLLECTION OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM. BY DR. GUSTAV HARTLAUB OF BREMEN, FOREIGN MEMBER.

One of the principal reasons that made me anxious to visit England was the wish to increase my materials for a second edition of my book on the Birds of Western Africa. In this object I have been most liberally assisted by Mr. G. R. Gray, who has allowed me every opportunity of examining the specimens in the magnificent Collection of the British Museum. Besides some interesting novelties which we found, and which I wish to describe in the 'Proceedings' of the Society, among whose Foreign Members I have the honour to be enrolled, I have had the pleasure of inspecting some very rare species which I had not seen before. Among these I may mention some of those rare types collected during the second Niger Expedition by Mr. Louis Fraser,—as, for instance, the *Sylvicola superciliosa* of that naturalist, which from a second and more perfect Ashantee specimen I have found to be what I never expected, a typical *Camaroptera*; then the *Coccothraustes olivaceus* of Fraser, a type most peculiar and unique amongst the great number of African Fringillidæ. But by far the most interesting and most curious African form which I have seen for the first time, is a little bird hardly larger than the smallest Humming-bird, the *Dicaeum Ruchie* of Cassin, and the type of my genus *Pholidornis*. This minute and very peculiarly coloured species is the only true African representative of the essentially Asiatic form *Dicaeum*, from which, however, I hold it to be truly generically distinct.

The new species which I have observed, are the following:—

1. ONYCHOGNATHUS HARTLAUBII, G. R. Gray, MS.

*Minor, obscure violascenti-chalybeus; capite toto et remigum minorum marginibus externis in æneum vergentibus; scapularibus, tectricibus alarum minoribus et subalaribus dorso concoloribus; reatricibus obscure chalybeis, margine ænescentibus; remigum nigrorum dimidio basali oblique rufo; rostro nigro; pedibus fuscis.* ♀, *capite et collo cinerascente striatis.*

Long. tot.  $10\frac{1}{2}''$ , rostr. a fr.  $12''$ , al.  $4\frac{1}{2}''$ , reatric. intermed.  $4\frac{1}{4}''$ , tars.  $11''$ .

*Hab.* Fernando Po.

This bird is a second and very typical species of my genus *Onychognathus*, the type of which, *O. fulgidus*, seems to be confined to the Island of St. Thomas. The system of colouring is quite the same in both species; but *O. hartlaubii* is a much smaller bird, and has the bill much less hooked. One of the two specimens in

the British Museum is labeled "Fernando Po;" the exact habitat of the other one is not known. *Onychognathus* is a beautiful transitional form, intermediate between *Amydrus* and *Lamprocolius*.

## 2. TELEPHONUS MINUTUS, sp. nov.

*Minor*; pileo toto nigro; striola superciliari gracili albida; cervice et interscapulio immaculate fulvis; dorso medio longitudinaliter nigro variegato; tergo et uropygio fulvis; loris albidis; alis rufis, remigibus primariis in pogonio interno nigricanti-fuscis, tertiariis et tectricibus majoribus in medio longitudinaliter nigricantibus; subalaribus fulvis; rectricibus fusco-nigris, duabus externis fulvescente extus limbatis, extimæ apice latius pallido; corpore inferiore toto fulvo, gula pallidiore; rostro valido nigro; pedibus fuscis.

Long. 7", rostr. a fr.  $8\frac{1}{2}$ ", al. 2" 7", caud. 3". tars.  $11\frac{1}{2}$ ".

*Hab.* Ashantee.

This is the smallest species of the exclusively African genus *Telephonus*. It is, perhaps, not generally known in this country, that the German traveller, Dr. A. Brehm, a very acute and scientific naturalist, who has explored the Ornithology of Spain better than any person before him, most decidedly contradicts the occurrence of *Telephonus cucullatus* or of any other species of this group in that country. Temminck's indication to the contrary appears to be one of those many errors occurring in Part 3 and 4 of the 'Manuel d'Ornithologie;' at least it was regarded as such by every person in Spain who had paid any attention to the birds of the country, and Dr. Brehm himself could not discover there the slightest trace of this bird.

Another striking and interesting example of the *incorrectness* of local indications in the 'Manuel d'Ornithologie,' is given in the total absence of the *Ixos obscurus* from Spain or any other country in the south of Europe.

Two specimens of *T. minutus* are in the collection of the British Museum, which besides possesses a very complete set of all the other known species of the genus.

## 3. ANDROPADUS ERYTHROPTERUS, G. R. Gray, MS.

*Obscure olivaceus, alis totis et imprimis tectricibus distincte rufescentibus; remigum marginibus internis pallidis; subalaribus flavidis; cauda fusca; corpore inferiore pallidiore, flavescente; rostro fusco, apice et mandibula tota flavidis; pedibus pallidis.*

Long. tot. 6", rostr.  $5\frac{1}{2}$ ", al. 2" 8", caud. 2" 9", tars. 8".

*Hab.* Ashantee.

Another bird of one of those exclusively African genera which seem to have their full development on the western coast. The other species are *A. importunus* from the Cape, *A. latirostris* and *A. gracilirostris*, both widely distributed along the western coast, and *A. virens* of Cassin, discovered by Du Chaillu on the banks of the river Muni and near Cape Lopez. The colouring of all these species is

very much alike; and clearer distinctive characters are much wanted in this group.

4. *TRICHOPHORUS CINERASCENS*, sp. nov.

*Supra olivaceo-viridis, plumis medio cinerascens, capite distinctius cinerascens; genarum plumulis stria mediana pallida notatis; tergo et uropygio viridioribus; remigum pogoniis externis virentibus, internis nigricantibus; rectricibus olivaceis, scapis nigris; subalaribus et subcaudalibus olivaceis: subtus olivaceo et cinerascens variegatus; gula flava; rostro plumbeo; pedibus nigricantibus.*

Long. tot.  $8\frac{1}{2}''$ , rostr.  $9''$ , al.  $4''$ , caud.  $4''$ , tars.  $10\frac{1}{2}'''$ .

*Hab.* Ashantee.

This fine new species comes nearest to *Tr. flavicollis* of Swainson, but is easily distinguished by the much greater amount of grey in its colouring. Nearly the whole of this group is distributed over the western parts of Africa. We know only one southern species. Not one has as yet been discovered in Abyssinia.

2. ON SOME NEW OR LITTLE-KNOWN SPECIES OF TANAGERS FROM THE COLLECTION OF M. VERREAUX OF PARIS. BY PHILIP LUTLEY SCLATER.

I have just received from M. Verreaux of Paris specimens of five *Tanagridæ*, part of a collection lately obtained from some district in the interior of Peru—I have little doubt, from the neighbourhood bordering on Bolivia, if not really within the limits of the latter republic. Two of them are certainly new species, and the others of rare occurrence; and I cannot avoid acknowledging my obligations to M. Jules Verreaux, our Corresponding Member, to whose friendliness I am indebted for having the opportunity of first examining these rare birds. The species are as follows:—

1. *BUARREMON RUFINUCHUS* (Lafr. et D'Orb.), Sclater, Syn. Av. Tan. p. 25, sp. 10.

Quite a distinct species from *B. latinuchus* of Ecuador, and readily known by its black back, and the black chin and sides of the throat. M. DuBus was perfectly right in separating them.

2. *CHLOROSPINGUS ALBITEMPORALIS* (Lafr.), Syn. Av. Tan. p. 27; P. Z. S. 1856, p. 89.

This specimen confirms my separation of this species from the Mexican *C. ophthalmicus*. I have already stated the grounds of difference.

3. *CHLOROSPINGUS CASTANEICOLLIS*, sp. nov.

*Supra olivascens-fuscus, pileo saturatiore, alis caudaque rufescentioribus: capitis lateribus cum mento nigris, superciliis angustis ad nucham protractis et macula parva suboculari albis:*